



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

April 9, 2001

In reply refer to:

### **To: People Interested in the Condon Wind Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to purchase the electrical output and provide transmission for the Condon Wind Project, a new wind energy facility being proposed by SeaWest WindPower, Inc., near Condon in Gilliam County, Oregon. We are considering some changes to the proposal. This letter will bring you up-to-date.

### **Proposal**

SeaWest has proposed to build and operate a wind generation facility on private land northwest of Condon (see attached map). SeaWest originally proposed a facility that would generate about 24.6 megawatts (MW) of power. SeaWest leased more land than would be needed with plans to narrow the choice based on results of wind studies and other environmental factors.

### **Wind Data**

The wind data collected so far depicts a less economic wind resource than anticipated. A larger project may be more economical. Over the last few weeks, SeaWest and BPA have looked for ways to restructure the project to reduce the cost of power.

While SeaWest has filed a development application with Gilliam County for a 24.6 MW wind facility, we want you to know the project could expand to 49.8 MW.

### **Turbine Design**

SeaWest has decided to use 600-kilowatt wind turbines (1000 kilowatts equal one MW). The 24.6 MW proposal would require 41 of these turbines; the 49.8 MW proposal, if requested, would require up to 83 turbines. The turbines would be approximately 274 feet tall including the rotor blades. The turbines would be placed in strings (or rows) with approximately 400 to 480 feet between each turbine in a string.

### **Environmental Impact Statement**

As a Federal agency, BPA must study the environmental impacts of a proposed project. This policy is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which requires potential environmental impacts be considered and made public before a decision is made. Environmental impacts are discussed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

BPA is preparing an EIS on the Condon Wind Project. From the beginning, our analysis looked at impacts within the larger area. If SeaWest amends its application to request a larger project, the expansion would occur within the area already studied. To ensure that all of the environmental effects of an expanded project are fully evaluated, the Draft EIS will be based on the assumption that the expanded project could be built.

**Schedule**

The Draft EIS will be complete in about a month. We will let you know when it is available.

If the project is approved by Gilliam County and BPA agrees to purchase the power output, SeaWest hopes to begin construction in late 2001, with commercial operation for the 24.6 MW facility starting in late 2001. If the project application is amended to request approval of a larger project, the balance of the expanded project (approximately 42 more turbines) would be constructed in 2002. The project would operate for at least 20 years.

**For More Information**

If you have any questions about the proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, call my direct number at (503) 230-4386, or send an e-mail to [gddarr@bpa.gov](mailto:gddarr@bpa.gov). Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

George D. Darr  
Project Manager

Enclosure:  
Map